

Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board **AGENDA MEMO**

Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

Subject

Creating and Posting Signs at public boat ramps and public fishing piers that discourage discarding fishing line.

Category

Advisory Board Member Agenda/Comments

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

David Daniels, ASCAB member. Contact info: email: DavidD4300@gmail.com

Action Requested

Motion that the ASCAB recommend that Manatee County create and post signs at public boat ramps and public fishing piers that discourage discarding fishing line.

Proposed Motion: That the Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board (ASCAB) recommend that Manatee County create and post high-visibility educational signage at all public boat ramps and public fishing piers, explicitly discouraging the discarding and cutting of monofilament fishing line, in order to protect local birds and marine wildlife from entanglement and ingestion hazards. The signs should clearly state that cutting fishing line causes wildlife death.

Background Discussion

Monofilament is a hidden killer. When people that fish discard used fishing line by cutting and abandoning it, they create a lethal hazard for local ecosystems. Fishing line is strong, clear, and takes up to 600 years to decompose. Because it is virtually invisible underwater and in vegetation, it easily entangles birds, sea turtles, manatees, and other wildlife.

Birds like pelicans, herons, and ospreys get tangled in line left on docks, branches, or shorelines - often leading to a slow death from starvation.

As birds and animals try to break free, the strong line cuts into their flesh, causing severe injuries, infections, or loss of limbs.

Marine life can mistake bunched-up line for food, causing fatal intestinal blockages.

The Solution: Public Education

Posting clear, high-visibility educational signs at boat ramps and fishing piers targets the behavior right where it happens. People that fish generally care about wildlife. Much of the adverse behavior comes from a lack of awareness, especially among teens and youth.

By placing signs that state: "**Please Do Not Cut and Discard Fishing Line — It Kills Local Birds and Wildlife,**" (or something similar) the county can change behavior, promote stewardship, and protect our priceless environment and wildlife.

Cost Discussion

A relatively small investment in signage would be an effective, proactive measure to protect our local wildlife, keep our waterways clean, and create a culture of respect for our priceless environment.

Link to possible sign. County experts to improve:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13m2b4qBa8PyP-l0OzXdfY-Pq_T0JGcR/view?usp=sharing



Cutting Your Line Kills Wildlife

Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board AGENDA MEMO

Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

Subject

Inclusion of an Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board (ASCAB) Member in the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program Onsite Evaluation Process.

Category

Advisory Board Member Agenda/Comments

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

David Daniels, ASCAB Member

Contact Email: DavidD4300@gmail.com

Action Requested

Proposed Motion: That the Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board (ASCAB) recommend that Manatee County include a designated member of the ASCAB as an active, interested party in the upcoming shelter evaluation process to be conducted by the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program. This representative shall be allowed to attend the onsite evaluation with a designated staff person and ask questions of the evaluation team regarding their observations, findings and recommendations.

Background Discussion

Manatee County has requested that the University of Florida (UF) Shelter Medicine Program perform an independent, on-site evaluation focusing on the county's newly installed prefabricated dog kennels. The UF team previously performed on-site evaluations of the Manatee County shelter in 2018 and on January 8-9, 2022. However, there is no written public record of findings from the 2022 evaluation.

Since the kennels were dropped off, there has been ongoing, persistent public comment expressing concern for the health and safety of the staff, volunteers and animals related to the prefabs. There have been complaints about the size and structural quality of the prefabs. Citizens and volunteers have provided specific examples of problems related to conditions and procedures. To protect the public's interest and ensure that volunteer's concerns are heard and evaluated, the evaluation process should be accessible and transparent to the ASCAB.

The Solution: Allowing an ASCAB member to observe and ask questions during the evaluation process will improve public trust and transparency

Involving an ASCAB representative directly in the site review bridges the gap between administrative processes and public accountability. Rather than relying strictly on a final, statically delivered report,

having an advisory board member present during the walkthrough allows real-time monitoring of the evaluation's scope.

The representative can directly clarify what parameters the UF evaluators are examining and note what documentation is requested or shared by shelter management. This active alignment directly fulfills the core mission of a citizen-led advisory board—promoting proactive animal welfare standards and ensuring transparent governance within Manatee County.

Cost Discussion

N/A

Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board

AGENDA MEMO

Meeting Date: June 17, 2026

Subject

Implementing Daily Digital Archiving of Dog Walk Logs

Category

Advisory Board Member Agenda/Comments

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

David Daniels ASCAB member email: DavidD4300@gmail.com

Action Requested

Objective: To establish a reliable, zero-cost tracking system for dog walks to accurately measure activity and improve animal welfare.

Proposed Motion:

That the ASCAB recommend to the BoCC that Manatee County Animal Welfare implement a daily closing procedure wherein a photograph is taken of the daily dog-walk tracking whiteboards at the end of each operational day, and that these photographs be systematically archived to establish a record for performance evaluation, staffing and volunteer needs, and animal welfare goals."

Background Discussion

Currently, MCAW utilizes whiteboards to track the daily walks and enrichment activities received by each adoptable shelter dog. While effective for real-time daily operations, this data is erased every 24 hours and the shelter loses a historical record to measure volunteer engagement, identify overlooked animals, and evaluate staffing needs. Archiving the information would establish a potential key indicator for shelter managers, county leadership and the public.

The Solution: Management Tracking Tool

By requiring staff or designated lead volunteers to take a photograph of the whiteboards at closing time and save them to a network folder, the county creates a zero-cost data tracking tool. Over time, these images can be reviewed or digitized into spreadsheets to provide clear, data-backed proof of shelter performance, transparency to the public, and actionable insights to improve overall animal welfare.

Cost Discussion

If the County uses the existing white boards, there would be zero cost. The process takes only a few minutes per day, requiring no new software purchasing, specialized equipment, or extensive staff training.

However, a relatively small investment could purchase more suitable whiteboards with wider columns to record the actual time of each walk and more detailed individual notes on each dog. Notes like "Housebroken" "short walk only" "Do not leave in yard" and any medical information. Wider columns allow for more legible records. Below is a link to a more suitable style of board.

Link to example of shelter-specific white board:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M2SIH0v2SyBA27UHzVaXyInpQdbYVfyT/view?usp=sharing>

Please sign us back in after we have Returned to our kennel!

	DOT	NAME	MEDICAL	BEHAVIOR	WALK #1	WALK #2
18		Ruger		Gentle giant knows sit Pretty chill but can be strong	8:50 10:45	3:50
19		Woim	LW only until 5/11/26	easy walk, sits NICE DOG	9:15	3:30
20		Gideon	LW only UFN (REL)	gentle giant strong but sweet	7:30	12:15 4:47
21		Skye		sweet girl!! loves treats	approved handlers only Behavior 0/500	0 04-0
22		Set			~~~~~	~~~~~
23		needs set when dry			~~~~~	~~~~~
24		Maci		love to walk, best smile, will sit @ doors, high energy	9:15	3:20
25		Frankie		VERY NICE BOY! will sit nicely knows sit	9:16 1:20	4:00
26		Set			~~~~~	~~~~~
27		Set reserved for "Tinkerbell" 3117			~~~~~	~~~~~
28		Muscariq		LOVES TO SMOKE ZOOMISSI	9:45	3:50
29		Milky Way		super sweet, a little shy sits everything	9:35	3:40
30		needs set when dry			~~~~~	~~~~~
31		Reserved Lincoln 3113			~~~~~	~~~~~
32		Sig		NO WALKS	00	Enrichment #1: toilet paper Enrichment #2: mystery box

Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board **AGENDA MEMO**
Meeting DATE June 17, 2026

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Public Awareness Campaign on Tethering

Category

Advisory Board Member Agenda/Comments

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

David Daniels ASCAB Member. email: DavidD4300@gmail.com

Action Requested

Motion that the Animal Services Citizen Advisory Board (ASCAB) recommend that the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approve and implement a comprehensive public awareness campaign to increase public education and compliance regarding county regulations on animal tethering.

Background Discussion

Having worked in shelters and spending a career at FPL that involved working in back yards - I've seen first hand the conditions that some dogs endure. Shelter dogs are the lucky ones.

Animal Ordinance 22-16, Section 2-4-8 D explicitly prohibits the tethering of an animal except under highly specified, limited conditions. Despite the ordinance being in place, I know that public awareness remains low, leading to ongoing violations that jeopardize animal welfare and safety across Manatee County.

The Solution: Public Education

To bridge the gap between the ordinance and public compliance, a multi-pronged public awareness campaign is needed to proactively inform residents of the law.

The proposed campaign will leverage existing county communication assets and public relations tools to maximize outreach without creating operational friction. Recommended channels include, but are not limited to:

- **Utility Bill Inserts:** Directly reaching homeowners and residents through monthly county utility statements.
- **Social Media Campaigns:** Engaging the community via regular updates across Manatee County's official social media channels.
- **County Digital Signage:** Utilizing the county's electronic message boards at local parks and the convention center.

- **Standardized Messaging Symbol:** To ensure instant, universal comprehension across all materials and languages, messaging should feature a standard "No Tethering" symbol—utilizing a red circle with a diagonal line-through a tethered animal silhouette, modeled closely after universal "No Smoking" signs. See the example below as a reference.

By increasing public knowledge, the county can shift behavior through proactive education, reduce the burden on animal control officers, and fundamentally improve animal welfare outcomes in our community.

Cost Discussion

The proposal will be cost-effective by taking advantage of existing public relations tools, electronic signage, and digital media platforms already owned and managed by Manatee County. Minimal costs may be associated with the design and production of printed utility bill inserts.

